

A River in the Desert
1st Annual Downriver Conference
August 26th – Clarion Hotel, Romulus, MI



**He opened the rock, and water gushed out;
like a river it flowed in the desert.
For he remembered his holy promise
given to his servant Abraham.
He brought out his people with rejoicing,
his chosen ones with shouts of joy;
he gave them the lands of the nations,
and they fell heir to what others had toiled for-
that they might keep his precepts
and observe his laws.
Praise the LORD.**

-Psalm 105:41-45

In Old Testament times, God took the Israelites out of Egypt so they could worship him in the desert, but when they disobeyed and did not fully follow his precepts. As punishment, God had the Israelites take a forty year trek through the desert. Even in their sin, God provided them ‘a river in the desert’ (Psalm 105:41). Today, our God still wants us to worship him. He wants us to love him and follow his precepts with all of our hearts. Instead, we have followed our own ‘gods’ and have, as a people, filled the world with an ever-increasing level of sin. The New Testament reads that when we stop worshipping God we ‘invent ways of doing evil’ (Romans 1:30). Jesus was not a grumbler or a complainer about this lost world; when he saw a problem he dealt with it swiftly. As spirit-filled disciples, we can do the same. To this lost world, we can be ‘a river’ – a river of praise, a river of love, a river of holiness, a river of forgiveness, a river of responsibility, a river of compassion, a river of faith, a river of POWER. This is our passion. This is the very core of our hearts as Disciples of Christ!

As unified members of the Detroit Church of Christ’s Wayne County Region, the Downriver house church is hosting its first conference to worship our God. We intend to be a river in the desert to this lost world. We have every desire to humbly help fill this world with living water, the living water that comes only from our God.

We hope and pray that as you join us for our first conference your faith is inspired and your spirit is brought to life; so we can unite and pour ourselves out in these ‘glory days’ for our God. We have planned great classes that will be taught by leaders from our sister churches in Michigan (Grand Rapids, Lansing, and of course Detroit) and Toledo, Ohio. It is our vision that this conference helps our faith, vision, heart, outreach and motivation. Our goal is to truly become what God desires: a **River in the Desert**.